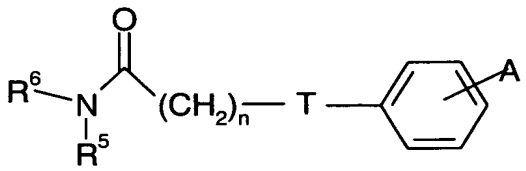
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula I

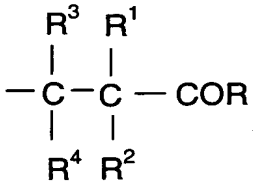


I

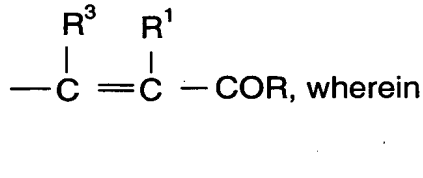
as well as optical isomers and racemates therof as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts, prodrugs, solvates and crystalline forms thereof,

wherein

A is situated in the ortho, meta or para position and represents



or

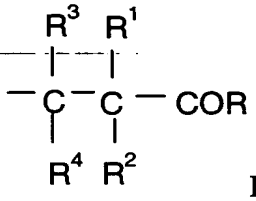


, wherein

R is hydrogen;

$-OR^a$, wherein R^a represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl;

$-NR^aR^b$, wherein R^a and R^b are the same or different and R^a is as defined above and R^b represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, cyano, - OH, -Oalkyl, -Oaryl, -Oalkylaryl, $-COR^c$ or $-SO_2R^d$, wherein R^c represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl and R^d represents alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl;



R^1 is alkyl, aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or when A is R^1 can also be cyano;

$-OR^e$, wherein R^e is alkyl, acyl, aryl or alkylaryl;

$-O-[CH_2]_m-OR^f$, wherein R^f represents hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, aryl or alkylaryl and m represents an integer 1-8;

$-OCONR^aR^c$, wherein R^a and R^c are as defined above;

$-SR^d$, wherein R^d is as defined above;

$-SO_2NR^aR^f$, wherein R^f and R^a are as defined above;

$-SO_2OR^a$, wherein R^a is as defined above;

$-COOR^d$, wherein R^d is as defined above;

R^2 is hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl,

R^3 and R^4 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl;

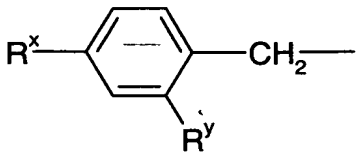
T represents O, S or a single bond;

n represents 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^5 and R^6 are independently selected substituents, comprising C, H, N, O, S, Se, P or halogen atoms, which give compounds of the General Formula I a molecular weight < 650;

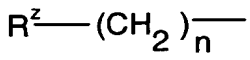
with a first proviso that

when A is $CH_2CH(OC_2H_5)COOC_2H_5$ or $CH_2CH(OC_2H_5)COOH$; T is O; n is 1 and R^5 represents a C_{2-4}alkyl group then R^6 does not represent a group of formula



wherein R^x represents chloro, trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy, R^y represents H or fluoro;

and a second proviso that when A is $CH_2CH(OC_2H_5)COOC_2H_5$ or $CH_2CH(OC_2H_5)COOH$; T is O; n is 1 and R^5 represents hexyl or heptyl then R^6 does not represent a group of formula



wherein R^z represents phenyl, 2,4-difluorophenyl or cyclohexyl , and n is 1 or 2;

provided that the compound of formula I is not:

(2S)-4-[2-[[2-[[(2,6-dichlorophenyl)methyl]thio]ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[butyl(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(3-pyridinyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methyl-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]-α-phenoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[(1-methyl-3-phenylpropyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[4-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperazinyl]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[[2-(4-bromophenyl)ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[[2-[ethyl(3-methylphenyl)amino]ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

α-methoxy-α-methyl-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[(3-methylbutyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(diphenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-(heptylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy-α-methyl- benzenepropanoic acid;

4-[2-[4-(2-fluorophenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy-, benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-1-piperidinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy-, benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[ethyl[(3-methylphenyl)methyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[(4-phenoxyphenyl)amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[(1-methylhexyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

3-[2-[[cis-4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)cyclohexyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(3-chlorophenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[methyl[(1S)-1-phenylethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[4-(4-methylphenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[[3-(methylphenylamino)propyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-(cyclobutylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methyl-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]-α-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenoxy]-benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-(heptylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[[(1S)-1-(1-naphthalenyl)ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[(1R)-1-phenylethyl](phenylmethyl)amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(3,3-diphenylpropyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[[trans-4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)cyclohexyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methyl-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]-α-phenoxy-, ethyl ester- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluorobutyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-(3,4-dihydro-2(1H)-isoquinolinyl)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-3-[2-[[2-(4-ethylphenyl)ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[(1-naphthalenylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(2-

pyridinyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[(1S)-1-phenylethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-(cyclopentylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-[bis(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

4-[2-[cyclohexyl[2-(4-ethylphenyl)ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-ethoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

D-Phenylalanine, N-[[4-[(2S)-2-carboxy-2-methoxyethyl]phenoxy]acetyl]-, α-methyl ester;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

α-methoxy-3-[2-oxo-2-[(4-phenoxyphenyl)amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[(1-methylbutyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[methyl(1-naphthalenylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-3-[2-[[trans-4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)cyclohexyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)methyl]-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(4-fluorobenzoyl)-1-piperidinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[ethyl[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[[2-(4-

methoxyphenoxy)ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(1,3-dimethylbutyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-
α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-(4-fluorophenoxy)-α-methyl-4-[2-oxo-2-
[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(3,3-dimethylbutyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-
α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methyl-1-piperazinyl]-2-
oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[(1R)-1-
phenylethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(4-acetylphenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-
oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(3-ethoxy-3-oxopropyl)(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-
oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[[cis-4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)cyclohexyl]amino]-2-
oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-ethyl-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-
phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]-α-phenoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

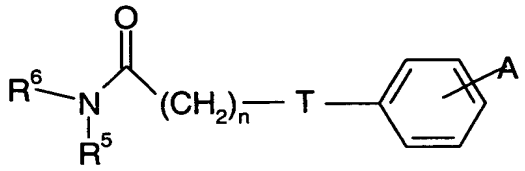
(2S)-4-[2-(hexylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[(2-
phenylethyl)(phenylmethyl)amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

or

(2S)-4-[2-[ethyl[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-
methylethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid.

2. A compound of formula I

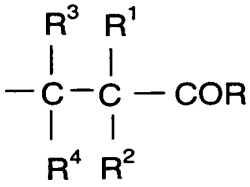


I

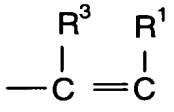
as well as optical isomers and racemates therof as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts, prodrugs, solvates and crystalline forms thereof

wherein

A is situated in the ortho, meta or para position and represents



or

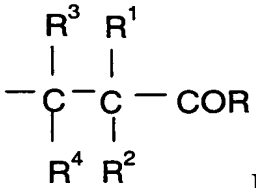


, wherein

R is hydrogen;

$-OR^a$, wherein R^a represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl;

$-NR^aR^b$, wherein R^a and R^b are the same or different and R^a is as defined above and R^b represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, cyano, - OH, -Oalkyl, -Oaryl, -Oalkylaryl, $-COR^c$ or $-SO_2R^d$, wherein R^c represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl and R^d represents alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl;

R^1 is alkyl, aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or when A is  R^1 can also be cyano;

$-OR^e$, wherein R^e is alkyl, acyl, aryl or alkylaryl;

$-O-[CH_2]_m-OR^f$, wherein R^f represents hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, aryl or alkylaryl and m represents an integer 1-8;

-$OCONR^aR^c$, wherein R^a and R^c are as defined above;

-SR^d, wherein R^d is as defined above;

-$SO_2NR^aR^f$, wherein R^f and R^a are as defined above;

-SO_2OR^a, wherein R^a is as defined above;

- $COOR^d$, wherein R^d is as defined above;

R^2 is hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl,

R^3 and R^4 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl;

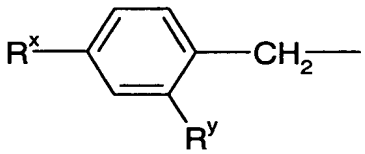
T represents O, S or a single bond;

n represents 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^5 and R^6 are independently selected substituents, comprising C, H, N, O, S, Se, P or halogen atoms, which give compounds of the General Formula I a molecular weight < 650;

with a first proviso that

when A is $CH_2CH(OC_2H_5)COOC_2H_5$ or $CH_2CH(OC_2H_5)COOH$; T is O; n is 1 and R^5 represents a C_{2-4}alkyl group then R^6 does not represent a group of formula



wherein R^x represents chloro, trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy, R^y represents H or fluoro;

and a second proviso that when A is $CH_2CH(OC_2H_5)COOC_2H_5$ or $CH_2CH(OC_2H_5)COOH$; T is O; n is 1 and R^5 represents hexyl or heptyl then R^6 does not represent a group of formula

wherein R^z represents phenyl, 2,4-difluorophenyl or cyclohexyl , and n is 1 or 2;

provided that the compound of formula I is not:

(2S)-4-[2-[[2-[[(2,6-dichlorophenyl)methyl]thio]ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[butyl(1-phenylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(3-pyridinyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methyl-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]-α-phenoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[(1-methyl-3-phenylpropyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[4-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperazinyl]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[[2-(4-bromophenyl)ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[[2-[ethyl(3-methylphenyl)amino]ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

α-methoxy-α-methyl-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[(3-methylbutyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(diphenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-(heptylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy-α-methyl- benzenepropanoic acid;

4-[2-[4-(2-fluorophenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-

oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy-, benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-1-piperidinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy-, benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[ethyl[(3-methylphenyl)methyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[(4-phenoxyphenyl)amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[(1-methylhexyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

3-[2-[[cis-4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)cyclohexyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(3-chlorophenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[methyl[(1S)-1-phenylethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[4-(4-methylphenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[[3-(methylphenylamino)propyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-(cyclobutylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methyl-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]-α-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenoxy]-benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-(heptylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[[(1S)-1-(1-naphthalenyl)ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[(1R)-1-phenylethyl](phenylmethyl)amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(3,3-diphenylpropyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[[trans-4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)cyclohexyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methyl-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]-α-phenoxy-, ethyl ester- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluorobutyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-(3,4-dihydro-2(1H)-isoquinolinyl)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-3-[2-[[2-(4-ethylphenyl)ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[(1-naphthalenylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(2-pyridinyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[(1S)-1-phenylethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-(cyclopentylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-[bis(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

4-[2-[cyclohexyl[2-(4-ethylphenyl)ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-ethoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

D-Phenylalanine, N-[[4-[(2S)-2-carboxy-2-methoxyethyl]phenoxy]acetyl]-, α-methyl ester;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

α-methoxy-3-[2-oxo-2-[(4-phenoxyphenyl)amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[(1-methylbutyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[methyl(1-naphthalenylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-3-[2-[[trans-4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)cyclohexyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)methyl]-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(4-fluorobenzoyl)-1-piperidinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[ethyl[(2-fluorophenyl)methyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-[[2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)ethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(1,3-dimethylbutyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-(4-fluorophenoxy)-α-methyl-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(3,3-dimethylbutyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methyl-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[[(1R)-1-phenylethyl]amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[4-(4-acetylphenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[(3-ethoxy-3-oxopropyl)(phenylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[[cis-4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)cyclohexyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-ethyl-4-[2-oxo-2-[[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]amino]ethoxy]-α-phenoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-(hexylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-α-methoxy-4-[2-oxo-2-[(2-phenylethyl)(phenylmethyl)amino]ethoxy]- benzenepropanoic acid;

(2S)-4-[2-[ethyl[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methylethyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-methoxy- benzenepropanoic acid;

[[4-[2-oxo-2-[[phenyl[2-(1-piperidinyl)phenyl]methyl]amino]ethyl]phenyl]methyl]-, diethyl ester-propanedioic acid;

4-[2-(heptylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-α,α-dimethyl-, ethyl ester - benzenepropanoic acid;

2-[[4-(2-amino-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]methylene]-3-oxo-, methyl ester -butanoic acid;

4-[2-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl]-α-phenyl-,ethyl ester- benzenepropanoic acid;

4-[2-(heptylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-α,α-dimethyl-, ethyl ester - benzenepropanoic acid;

4-[2-[[2-[[(1,1-dimethylethoxy)carbonyl]methylamino]-4-hydroxyphenyl]amino]-2-oxoethoxy]-α-(methylthio)-, ethyl ester-benzenepropanoic acid;

[[4-[2-oxo-2-[[phenyl[2-(1-piperidinyl)phenyl]methyl]aminoethyl]phenyl]methyl]-propanedioic acid;

N-[3-[4-[2-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl]phenyl]-1-oxo-2-phenylpropyl]-, methyl ester - glycine;

4-[2-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl]-α-phenyl-benzenepropanoic acid;

N-[3-[4-[2-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl]phenyl]-1-oxo-2-phenylpropyl]-glycine;

or

4-[3-[methyl(2-phenylethyl)amino]-3-oxopropyl]-α-phenyl-benzenpropanoic acid.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently selected substituents, comprising C, H, N, O, S or halogen atoms, which give compounds of the General Formula I a molecular weight < 650.

4. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R^5 and R^6 independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-13}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl or C_{2-10}alkynyl each of which is optionally substituted by one or more of the following which may be the same or different: C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}cycloalkenyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, C_{1-8}alkoxy (optionally substituted by one or more fluoro), C_{3-8}cycloalkoxy, C_{3-8}cycloalkenyloxy, aryloxy, heterocyclyloxy, heteroaryloxy, C_{3-8}cycloalkyl C_{1-8}alkoxy, aryl C_{1-8}alkoxy, heterocyclyl C_{1-8} alkoxy or heteroaryl C_{1-8} alkoxy, fluorine or hydroxy and wherein each of these substituents may optionally be substituted on carbon with one or more substituents which may be the same or different and selected from C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{3-8}cycloalkyl (optionally substituted by C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkoxy (optionally substituted by one or more fluoro), halogen, hydroxy, nitro or cyano), aryl (optionally substituted by C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkoxy (optionally substituted by one or more fluoro), halogen, hydroxy, nitro or cyano), heterocyclyl (optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl on any nitrogen), heteroaryl (optionally substituted by C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkoxy (optionally substituted by one or more fluoro), halogen, hydroxy, nitro or cyano), C_{1-8}alkoxy (optionally substituted by one or more fluoro), C_{3-8}cycloalkoxy, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl C_{1-8}alkoxy, aryloxy (optionally substituted by C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkoxy (optionally substituted by one or more fluoro), halogen, hydroxy, nitro or cyano), aryl C_{1-8}alkoxy (wherein the aryl part is optionally substituted by C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkoxy (optionally substituted by one or more fluoro), halogen, hydroxy, nitro or cyano), halogen, amino, nitro, hydroxy, methylsulfonyl, methylsulfonyloxy, cyano or methylenedioxy,

or R^5 and R^6 independently represent C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl; C_3-C_8 cycloalkenyl; aryl; heterocyclyl; or heteroaryl; wherein each of these groups is optionally substituted by one

or more of the following: C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkoxy (optionally substituted by one or more fluoro), halogen, hydroxy, nitro or cyano), aryl (optionally substituted by C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkoxy (optionally substituted by one or more fluoro), halogen, hydroxy, nitro or cyano; or R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a single or a fused heterocyclic system.

5. A compound according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 4 wherein A is $CH_2CH(OR^t)COOR^m$ wherein R^t represents C_{1-4}alkyl and wherein R^m represents H or C_{1-4}alkyl.

6. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 5 wherein n represents 2, 3 or 4.

7. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 6 wherein R^3 and R^4 are the same or different and each represents alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl.

8. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 6 wherein R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen.

9. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 8 wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently selected substituents, comprising C, N, O, S, Se, P or halogen atoms.

10. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 8 wherein when either of R^5 and R^6 is hydrogen, the other is not an alkyl.

11. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 10 wherein R^2 is hydrogen or fluorine.

12. One or more compounds selected from:

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(2,4-Difluorobenzyl)(octyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(2,4-Difluorobenzyl)(nonyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(2,4-Difluorobenzyl)(4-ethylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[Benzyl(methyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-Ethoxy-3-[4-(2-{heptyl[(1-methylindol-2-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(2,3-Dimethoxybenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[Butyl(2,3-dimethoxybenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)(4-isopropylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(Cyclohexylmethyl)(2,4-difluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-Ethoxy-3-(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[[4-(benzyloxy)benzyl](butyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[bis(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-*tert*-Butylbenzyl)(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-[4-(2-{(4-Chlorobenzyl)[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-[4-(2-{bis[4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[Benzyl(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid and

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-*tert*-Butylbenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[benzyl(4-isopropylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-[(3-ethoxypropyl)(4-isopropylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[butyl(4-isopropylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-[heptyl(4-isopropylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[[(4-cyanocyclohexyl)methyl](4-isopropylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-[(4-isopropylbenzyl)(2-methoxybenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(2,3-dimethoxybenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl)(4-ethoxybenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl)(3-bromobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-[4-(2-{(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl)[3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(3,5-dimethoxybenzyl)(4-ethoxybenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(3-chloro-4-fluorobenzyl)(4-ethoxybenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-[(4-ethoxybenzyl)(2-thienylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[benzyl(isopropyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-{4-[2-(dibenzylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]phenyl}-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[bis(2-methoxyethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-[4-(2-{heptyl[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]propanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-[4-(2-{heptyl[4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]propanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-[(4-ethylbenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-*tert*-butylbenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-[heptyl(4-isobutylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[benzyl(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-[(4-fluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-bromobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[butyl(4-ethylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[butyl(4-*tert*-butylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[butyl(4-isobutylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[benzyl(butyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[butyl(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-bromobenzyl)(butyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[butyl(2,4-difluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-[4-(2-{(4-chlorobenzyl)[4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(4-ethylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(4-isobutylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[benzyl(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-bromobenzyl)(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(2,4-difluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-[4-(2-{(4-methylbenzyl)[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]propanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-[4-(2-{(4-methylbenzyl)[4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]propanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-[(4-ethylbenzyl)(4-methylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-*tert*-butylbenzyl)(4-methylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-[(4-isobutylbenzyl)(4-methylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[benzyl(4-methylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-[(4-fluorobenzyl)(4-methylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)propanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(4-methylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(4-bromobenzyl)(4-methylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

(2*S*)-3-(4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(4-methylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)-2-ethoxypropanoic acid

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

13. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 or 12 in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, diluents and/or carriers.

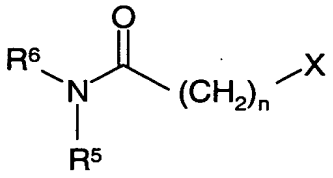
14. A method of treating or preventing lipid disorders (dyslipidemia) whether or not associated with insulin resistance comprising the administration of a compound according to any one of claims 1 or 12 to a mammal in need thereof.

15. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of lipid disorders (dyslipidemia) whether or not associated with insulin resistance.

16. A method of treating or preventing type 2 diabetes comprising the administration of an effective amount of a compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 15 to a mammal in need thereof.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11 combined with another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of disorders associated with the development and progress of atherosclerosis such as hypertension, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity.

18. A compound of formula VI:



VI

wherein R5, R6 and n is as defined in any of the preceding claims and X is a leaving group, such as a halide, OSO_2CH_3, OTosyl, ONosyl, OSO_2CF_3, OC(O)OR, $OP(O)(OR)_2$ or OSO_2OR, particularly chloro or bromo.